



# SCFD Graduating to Safety



December 2nd, 2013 - Shelby County, TN. The Shelby County Office of the Mayor Mark Luttrell, Jr., along with the administration of the Shelby County Fire Department graduated thirteen of the newest fire fighters and three dispatchers into service at the Fire Department. The hour-long ceremony was attended by friends and family of the graduates who will begin their new careers immediately. They have been immersed in rigorous and comprehensive training programs that will assure that they are ready to serve and are among the very best at protecting property and saving lives. Congratulations to Dispatchers Theresa Staten, Candace Hadley & Kevin Lackey and to fire fighters John Conrey, Travis Cooper, Brandon Cox, Robert Decker, Jamie Diltz, Hunter Hayes, Terrence Holt, Donald Jenkins, Michael Jones, Ryon McCray, Stephen Palmoore, Brandon Patrick, and Jeremy Shaw. Well Done Everyone!

## Story Contributors:

Mayor's Staff, *Cover Photos, Mayor's Photo Gallery*  
 Elizabeth Hart, *Safe Sleep*  
 Ivette Baldizon, *Race: Are We So Different*  
 Chris Sheffield, *Trustee's Office*  
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 Olliette Murry-Drobot, *"Let's Talk About It"*  
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 Janice Holmes, *Promotions*  
 Mayor's Staff, *Various photos & stories*  
 Margie Hyde and Chamayne Shaw, *Condolences, Anniversaries, & Retirements*

# Healthy Eating Day



National Eating Healthy Day was observed by Shelby County employees. The kick-off was sponsored by the American Heart Association to bring heart-healthy awareness to the employees. They provided a mid-morning snack of healthy foods before converging on the mall to hand out fruit to passers-by.

Dep. Admin. Marcquinne Yancey and Dir. Yvonne Madlock

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# COUNTY LINES

VOLUME IV

ISSUE 3, December 2013

## Greetings from the Mayor



Now that the holidays have passed, I hope you enjoyed your time with your families. I would like to thank all of you for your diligence in keeping services at commendable levels during those times when many employees traveled and took time off to be with their families.

We are entering the second half of our fiscal year and I look forward to working with you to accomplish some of the goals we have established to improve services to our citizens. We are also working to offer the best benefits for our employees in the areas of health and wellness, personal development, and life planning, to name a few. I urge you to take advantage of the classes offered through our Training Center. They are very helpful and free to you as an employee of Shelby County Government.

You will find many helpful and informative articles in this newsletter edition. For those of interest to you, please share with your relatives and friends. Please take special note of the "Benefits" section to ensure that you meet the deadlines of *Flex Spending* and the *Dependent Eligibility Audit*.

The Trustee's Office and the Public Defender's are conducting substantial community outreach to homeowners and formerly incarcerated individuals, respectively. You are the best advocates to help them spread the word.

Congratulations to those who have been promoted. You set leadership examples for all of us. Keep up the good work!

My condolences to the families and friends who have lost loved ones over the past months. You are in our prayers.

As always, be safe and cautious...it is still winter and the weather can be challenging.

Thank you for the good work you have done.

## Mayor's Photo Gallery



*Peter Abell, Executive Director for Shelby County Books from Birth engaged Mayor Luttrell in some of the books that will be purchased using the \$10,000 donation from the Mayor's Charitable Golf Tournament.*



*Michael Massey, from Well Child, Inc. gave Mayor Luttrell a tour of their facility which conducts on-site health exams for Shelby County Schools.*



*Mayor Luttrell celebrated Open House at Wolf River Bluffs.*



*Mayor Luttrell joined "The Queen of Beale Street," Ms. Ruby Wilson at the annual Convention and Visitors' Bureau Holiday Party.*



*Mayor Luttrell received a handshake and congratulations from "the Grizz" during the Annual Heart Walk at AutoZone Park.*



**United Way  
of the Mid-South**

***You may continue to make donations to the United Way Campaign all year!***



## Departmental News

### Health Department *Safe Sleep Campaign*



Babies should sleep **A**lone, on their **B**ack and in a **C**rib.

Everyone should know the lifesaving safe sleep practices for infants. Parents, grandparents, caregivers, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc., should ALL be informed.

Download the FREE mobile app:

[Baby2Sleep](#)

“Like” on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Baby2Sleep](http://www.facebook.com/Baby2Sleep)

“Follow” on Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/Baby2SleepTN](http://www.twitter.com/Baby2SleepTN)

The Shelby County Health Department, Healthy Shelby, and many other community partners launched the Safe Sleep Campaign. The goal is to ensure that everyone is aware of and prepared to adopt lifesaving safe sleep practices for their infant.

### Office of Multicultural Affairs *“Race: Are We So Different” Be a Volunteer*

“Race: Are We So Different” Exhibit opens February 1 and runs through May 4, 2014.

The exhibit tells stories of race from biological, cultural and historical points of view. It brings together the everyday experience of living with race, its history and the role of science in that history. Volunteers will help visitors explore the interactive exhibit components, historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs, and multimedia presentations that offer an eye-opening look at this important subject matter. Volunteer commitment is one 3 ½ hour shift weekly on weekdays or two shifts monthly on weekends.

Volunteer training sessions are: Saturday, January 25 or Thursday, January 30, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

To receive additional information or obtain a volunteer application, see our website: [http://www.memphismuseums.org/be\\_a\\_volunteer/](http://www.memphismuseums.org/be_a_volunteer/) or call Diane McKinna, Volunteer Manager at (901) 636-2438.

### Trustee’s Office News

#### *The Du\$ty Tru\$tee\$ Team*



The Shelby County Trustee’s Office fielded a team to compete in this year’s Memphis Kickball League. The Du\$ty Tru\$tee\$ were one of about 15 teams from area businesses – and the only county office — to compete in this year’s series at Tobey Park. More than 20 staff members participated on the team, which finished 1-7 in league play and 01 in the tournament.

Du\$ty Tru\$tee team member Marvin Greer, a tax collector with the Shelby County Trustee’s Office, alludes being tagged out during a Memphis Kickball League game.

*Photos by Nathon Currie*

### *Home for the Holidays*

Shelby County Trustee David Lenoir and the Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. partnered again to present the free foreclosure prevention and financial counseling event Home for the Holidays: A Housing and Economic Empowerment Collaborative. The event was held at the Hickory Ridge Towne Center, formerly known as the Hickory Ridge Mall.

The six-hour event featured a small business resource center, legal clinic, a Homebuyer’s Corner with expertise from lenders, Realtors and housing agencies and the Shelby County Trustee’s Project H.O.M.E. financial literacy and budgeting workshop.

Topics focused on homeownership financing, foreclosure and tax sale prevention and WISE Teens Youth Revue forum. Health screenings and meal tips were also be offered. The Job LINC Mobile Job & Career Center Affordable Care Act counselors were on site.

“Building an economically healthy community requires healthy habits,” said Trustee David Lenoir. “People in good physical and financial shape are better prepared for life’s hurdles.”



## Department News

### Agricenter International

*Farmers' Market Vendors Donate 9 1/2 Tons of Nourishment*



Nine vendors from Agricenter International's Farmers Market have donated a total of 19,046 pounds of fresh produce and bread this season to help feed hungry families in the Memphis community.

The West Tennessee Gleaning Network is a program developed to be the Society of St. Andrew that coordinates volunteers to pick remaining food from farmers' fields after the harvesting. This nutritional food is donated to local families who may be experiencing a food shortage.

This process of "gleaning" farm fields netted almost 35,000 pounds of food throughout Shelby County in 2013.

For more information about the West TN Gleaning Network, visit [www.endhunger.org/tennessee.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/tennessee.htm).

### Family Safety Center

*"Let's Talk About It (Family Fridays)"*

Catch Family Safety Center's Olliette Murry-Drobot and WLOK's Bobbi Thompson every Friday at 11 a.m. Upcoming guests for January include Maria Randall discussing the work of Hope House. Dr. Kathryn Helen Howell with the University of Memphis on her research on violence and children. Tune in on Fridays for a seat at the kitchen table as we discuss issues impacting families throughout Shelby County.



### Training Office

#### Wellness in the Workplace

The human body was designed to move, yet many of us now scarcely stir, spending most of our day in sedentary jobs and then driving home for an evening of television, surfing the Web or video games. According to the American Heart Association, 60 percent of adults don't get enough exercise to keep fit.

The good news is that weight gain can often be reduced with regular physical activity. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week — the U.S. Surgeon General's recommendation. Any activity that you enjoy and resolve to stick with is fine. "Exercise" doesn't have to mean working out at the gym or engaging in competitive sports. It can be any physical activity, including gardening or housework, that gets you moving and using energy.

It isn't even necessary to pack 30 minutes of activity into a single burst; it can be achieved in shorter increments — such as three 10-minute sessions — throughout the day. Try to increase your physical activity in as many ways as you can. Below are some tips for doing just that, while you are at work.

- Park a distance from your office.
- Program regular breaks into your workday to move around the office.
- Take the stairs, not the elevator.
- Go for a 20-minute walk at lunchtime.
- Visit your colleagues in person, rather than calling or e-mailing them.
- Stand whenever possible (while on the phone, for example).
- Time to kill before an appointment? Try walking up and down the hall or doing some calf raises.
- Recruit an accountability/activity partner: You're more likely to persevere if you exercise with some company.
- Keep comfortable shoes handy in the car; use them whenever an opportunity to exercise arises.

Be sure to reward yourself when you reach your exercise goals.

#### Build It Up

One half hour of moderate activity a day is usually all that's required to maintain adequate physical health. If you want to boost your cardiovascular fitness, gradually add more vigorous activity, like running, inline skating or jumping rope, to your regimen until you've built up to 30- to 60-minute sessions, three to four times a week.

#### 7 Benefits of Regular Moderate Exercise:

1. Makes you feel great.
2. Helps boost your metabolism.
3. Burns off calories, aiding weight loss.
4. Helps to lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
5. Can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers.
6. Improves sleep, promotes relaxation and combats depression.
7. Increases strength and flexibility.

Gressor, 2013 Weight Watchers International



## Department News—Holiday Snapshots



*The White Station Elementary School performed a caroling event for Shelby County employees.*

*The Finance Dept. presented their "Angel Tree." Marsha Logan, Cherrie Barthelemy, Louise Horton, David Everson, and Ann Davis*



*Mayor Luttrell helped deliver food baskets to residents of Kefauver Apartments. The food was donated by Neighborhood Christian Center.*



## Department News

### Benefits

#### *Flex Spending*

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have modified the “use-it-or-lose-it” rule. Instead of risk losing the funds left in your health FSA at the end of the 2013 plan year, you may now carry over up to \$500 of your remaining health FSA funds into the next plan year.

Shelby County Government will amend its FSA plan to include the carryover provision which applies to 2013 and future plan years. This means you do not have to rush to spend all of your health FSA funds or worry about losing money when the plan year ends. This change gives you even more control over your health care dollars from year to year.

The \$500 carryover of unused funds does not count toward the maximum amount of salary reduction contributions that the employee may elect. In addition, IRS did not change the maximum amount of employee salary reduction contributions, which continues to be \$2500 per plan year.

The modification to the use-it-or-lose rule **does not** apply to the Dependent Care FSA and funds remaining in this account are forfeited after the plan year.

### *Important Notice* *Dependent Eligibility Audit*

Over 83% of county employees and retirees with dependents in the medical healthcare plans have responded to the **mandatory** Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit. If you have completed the audit, thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Due to the volume of changes associated with termination of the PPO medical plan, incorrect employee addresses and mail delivery delays during the process, Shelby County Government is extending the deadline. **The new deadline is February 15, 2014.** Employees **must** provide information to verify eligibility of their dependent(s) to Buck and can respond online or by mail.

For employees whose proof of eligibility packets were undeliverable and returned to the sender (Buck Consultants), those employees will receive a hand delivered packet from Human Resources. Employees will be required to sign for the packet.

All other employees who did not respond to the earlier deadline (January 18<sup>th</sup>) will receive a reminder notice directly from Buck Consultants.

**Failure to respond to the audit in full will result in your dependent(s) being removed from their medical coverage on February 28, 2014.** All employees that receive notice of ineligibility have the right to appeal to Buck Consultants.

If you have any questions regarding the audit, please contact Buck Consultants directly at (855) 476-3364.

### Public Defender's Office *Restoring Citizenship & Voting Rights*



*Shelby County Assistant Public Defender Chris Martin successfully petitions for the voting rights of Martin Storz (seated front row, left) and Lewis Anderson (seated front row, right).*

**“I really feel like I’m actually a free person now. Like I’m actually able to be a constructive and positive person in the community. Now I can do more work in the community that I wasn’t able to do prior to this. You never realize what these issues are until you lose these rights. You don’t realize. This restoration to my rights is restoring my life, as well, and I just thank God for this day.”**

Lewis Anderson, Restoration of Citizenship Client

Anderson was one of three men who have had full citizenship rights restored as part of a new clinic for the Shelby County Public Defender’s Office. In Tennessee, loss of citizenship from a felony conviction means you can’t vote, can’t run for office and can’t serve as a guardian or trustee. Restoring these rights requires coordination between the public defender’s office, the district attorney’s office, the courts and the Shelby County Election Commission. It’s an arduous process that can take weeks to complete, because rights restoration has been attempted so infrequently in Shelby County.

This is not the story in many states across the country. According to the Brennan Center at the New York University of School of Law, a vast majority of states automatically restore voting rights after completion of a sentence. In fact, Maine and Vermont never strip people of voting rights for criminal convictions.

“Voting rights restoration is just a small part of a much larger movement for equal justice,” said Chris Martin, Shelby County Assistant Public Defender. “With the help of law students and legal aid attorneys in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville, we hope to export this model to other parts of Tennessee. It wouldn’t be possible without the support and self-sacrifice of so many volunteers.”

For more information and clinic times, contact the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library at (901) 415-2700.



## Department News

### Shelby County Promotions Spotlight

*The following Shelby County employees were promoted during the month of November 2013.*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Position</u>
Baldwin, Tgichona	Corrections	Corrections Lieutenant
Ballard, David	Sheriff's Office	Deputy Sheriff Sergeant
Banks, Antonio	Juvenile Court	Juvenile Services Specialist I
Beckham, Freddie	Register's Office	Manager A
Brittenum, Charles	Sheriff's Office	Deputy Sheriff Sergeant
Gayles, Kim	Corrections	Corrections Lieutenant
Hamm, Gilbert	Info Tech	Systems Analyst Lead
Jacobs, Jeffrey	Trustee's Office	Deputy Administrator
Kellerhall, Mark	Sheriff's Office	Deputy Sheriff Captain
Lipford, Karla	Sheriff's Office	Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant
Perry, Lurlean	Roads & Bridges	Data Specialist
Robertson, Cynthia	Corrections	Corrections Captain
Smith, Sheronda	Juvenile Court	Juvenile Services Counselor II



*Congratulations!*

### Shelby County Promotions Spotlight

*The following Shelby County employees were promoted during the month of December 2013.*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Position</u>
Bates, Sherry	Health	Infant Mortality Coordinator
Dyasani, Arun Kumar Reddy	Info Tech	Senior Programmer
Hardrick, Kimberly	Gen Sess Crim	Deputy Court Clerk
Jeffries-Perry, Sandra	Info Tech	Network Systems Administrator
Martin, Kimberley	Corrections	Administrative Technician
Nash, Lisa	Circuit Clerk	Collections Counselor- Debtor
Weeams, Donna	Public Defender	Manager A
Wooldridge, Robin	Circuit Clerk	Collections Counselor- Debtor



*Congratulations!*



*I remember a very important lesson that my father gave me when I was twelve or thirteen. He said, "You know, today I welded a perfect seam and I signed my name to it." And I said, "But, Daddy, no one's going to see it!" And he said, "Yeah, but I know it's there." So when I was working in kitchens, I did good work.*

**~Toni Morrison**



## Anniversaries

### NOVEMBER 2013 ANNIVERSARIES

#### 35 Years of Service

Moore, Gail K, Finance  
Chambers, Elester, Head Start  
Williams, Annie L, Sheriff's Office

#### 30 Years of Service

Williams, Mia R, Election Comm  
Horne, Harold W, Juvenile Court  
Trippett, Kimberly L, Sheriff's Office

#### 25 Years of Service

Alexander, Anthony C, Corrections  
Landfair Jr, Jim C, Corrections  
Robinson, Betty J, Health Dept  
Hampton, Delores A, Juvenile Court  
Whitsitt Jr, William R, Public Defender  
Anthony, Sandra G, Sheriff's Office  
Glover, Jacqueline E, Sheriff's Office  
Henegar, Margaret J, Sheriff's Office

### DECEMBER 2013 ANNIVERSARIES

#### 40 Years of Service

Maben, Hattie M, Health Dept

#### 35 Years of Service

Walton, Felecia L, Assessor  
Ryder, John L, County Attorney  
Pierce, Barbara Walls L, Public Defender

#### 30 Years of Service

Jones, Valerie L, Finance  
Boyland, Callie M, Head Start  
Somerville, Carolyn H, Health Dept

#### 25 Years of Service

Thomas, Kathy L, Assessor  
Towns, Ronald G, Corrections  
Marcum, Mattie M, County Clerk  
Johnson, Linda, Health Dept  
Edingborough, Errol, Roads & Bridges  
Atkins, Cassandra L, Sheriff's Office  
Branch, Essie T, Sheriff's Office  
Ezell, Anthony E, Sheriff's Office  
Harris, Charlotte W, Sheriff's Office  
Kirby, Geneva R, Sheriff's Office

## Retirees

### NOVEMBER 2013 RETIREES

#### Employee (Yrs. of Svc) & Department

Thomas J. Calhoun (25), Juvenile Court  
Fred L. Coleman (24), Sheriff's Office  
James T. Collins (12), Correction Center  
Regina G. Haley (21), Health Department  
Margaret Jane Henegar (25), Sheriff's Office  
Samuel Jones (30), Correction Center  
Brenda P. Murphy (25), Community Services  
Thomas M. Richie (16), Assessor's Office  
Patrick C. Sanford (32), Juvenile Court Clerk  
Scott S. Snyder (30), Fire Department  
Sylvia L. Turner (22), Sheriff's Office  
Sally A. White (24), Sheriff's Office  
Dorothy M. Williams (7½), Headstart

### DECEMBER 2013 RETIREES

#### Employee (Yrs. of Svc) & Department

Betty Gail Butler (14), Sheriff's Office  
Lavonda D. Davis (32), The Med  
Trini L. Dean (25), Sheriff's Office  
Richard G. Kesler (4), County to City  
Jim E. Kirkpatrick (26), Sheriff's Office  
Doris J. McKinley (27), Community Services  
Jamillah Muhammad (27),  
Community Services  
Marguerite A. Richmond (31), Sheriff's Office  
Ellen J. Schneider (35), Human Resources  
Ethel L. Wallace (8), Headstart  
Denise R. Woodland (25),  
Community Services

## Condolences

### NOVEMBER 2013 CONDOLENCES

*Below is a list of employees who lost a loved one in October.  
Please keep them and their families in your prayers.*

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Relative</u>	<u>Relations</u>
Harris Sample, Jr.	Assessor's Office	-	Self
Wilbur E. Byrd	CSA	Willie Byrd	Father
Felix Broadie	Crim. Clerk's Office	Emma Jane Coleman	Mother
Jimmy Moore	Clerk's Office	Jimmy Moore	Brother
Frank Porter	Assessor's Office	Wendy R. Porter	Wife

### DECEMBER 2013 CONDOLENCES

Cheyenne Johnson	Assessor's Office	Emegene Bullard-Johnson	Mother-In-Law
Jeterryl Clay	Human Resources	Vera Mae White-Loggins	Grandmother
Natoria Carpenter	Assessor's Office	Ossie Wade	Grandmother
Dominique Carpenter	Assessor's Office	Ossie Wade	Grandmother

*"There can be no deep  
disappointment where  
there is not deep love."*

*~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### Shelby County Government Mayor's Office

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E-mail: Newsletter@shelbycountyttn.gov  
Please submit stories, comments, and  
questions

Published by the Mayor's Office

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.SHELBYCOUNTYTN.GOV**